

Glossary of Disease Diagnoses of the 1860s at Fort Sumner, NM

(Fort Sumner Historic Site Archives; Thornber 2017, Merriam-Webster)

Abrasion- a scrape or scratch caused by friction

Abscess- a swelling in soft tissue filled with pus caused by an infection, such as a boil.

Amaurosis- partial or complete loss of sight occurring especially without an externally perceptible change in the eye

Anemia- a pathological deficiency in the oxygen-carrying capacity of the blood.

Bilious fever- elevated temperature associated with gastric distress.

Boils- an abscess of skin or painful inflammation of the skin or a hair follicle usually caused by a staphylococcal infection.

Bronchitis- inflammation of the mucous membranes of the bronchial tubes.

Bubo- an inflammatory swelling of a lymph gland especially in the groin

Burn- injury or damage resulting from exposure to fire, heat, caustics, electricity, or certain radiations

Catarrh- inflammation of the mucous membranes, esp. of the nose and throat; a cold.

Cholera- an infectious, often fatal epidemic disease characterized by watery diarrhea, vomiting and muscle cramps.

Colic- severe abdominal cramping and pain.

Conjunctivitis- inflammation of the mucous membranes of the eyes.

Constipation- difficult, infrequent or incomplete evacuation of the bowels.

Consumption- see tuberculosis.

Contusion- injury to tissue usually without laceration, a bruise

Croup- inflammation, edema, and subsequent obstruction of the larynx, trachea, and bronchi especially of infants and young children that is typically caused by a parainfluenza virus and is marked by episodes of difficult breathing and low-pitched cough resembling the bark of a seal

Debilitas/Debility- general weakness or infirmity.

Delirium Tremens- a violent delirium with tremors that is induced by excessive and prolonged use of alcoholic liquors, alcohol withdrawal.

Diarrhea- excessively frequent bowel movements, loose bowel movements.

Dropsy- edema; excessive accumulation of serous fluid in body tissues.

Dysentery- an inflammatory disorder of the lower bowels, resulting in severe diarrhea accompanied by blood and mucous in the stool.

Dyspepsia- indigestion; an upset stomach.

Ear ache- see orthorrhea

Eczema- an inflammatory condition of the skin characterized by redness, itching, and oozing vesicular lesions which become scaly, crusted, or hardened

Emphysema- a disease of the lungs, characterized by difficulty breathing.

Enlargement- possibly inflammation or swelling

Enteritis- inflammation of the intestines and especially of the human ileum

Epilepsy- any of various disorders marked by abnormal electrical discharges in the brain and typically manifested by sudden brief episodes of altered or diminished consciousness, involuntary movements, or convulsions

Eruption- the breaking out of a rash on the skin or mucous membrane

Erysipelas- a streptococcal infection, usually of the skin.

Erythema- abnormal redness of the skin or mucous membranes due to capillary congestion (as in inflammation)

Favus- a fungal infection of the scalp.

Fever, intermittent- elevated body temperature with fluctuations to normal or below normal levels.

Fever, remittent- elevated body temperature which fluctuates, but never drops to normal.

Fistula- a deep sinuous passage, often leading to an internal hollow organ.

Fracture- the breaking of hard tissue (such as bone)

Frost Bite- the superficial or deep freezing of the tissues of some part of the body (such as the feet or hands), the damage to tissues caused by freezing

Gastritis- inflammation especially of the mucous membrane of the stomach

Gonorrhea- a contagious venereal disease.

Grippe- influenza

Headache- pain in the head

Hemeralopia- a defect of vision characterized by reduced visual capacity in bright lights

Hemorrhoids- the pathological condition resulting in hemorrhoids.

Hepatitis-inflammation of the liver

Herpes- any of several inflammatory diseases of the skin caused by herpesviruses and characterized by clusters of vesicles, especially by watery blisters on the skin or mucous membranes of the lips, mouth, face, or genital region

Ictus- a sudden attack or seizure especially of stroke

Impetigo- an acute contagious staphylococcal or streptococcal skin disease characterized by vesicles, pustules, and yellowish crusts

Indigestion- a case or attack of indigestion marked especially by pain, discomfort, or a burning sensation in the upper abdomen often accompanied by abdominal bloating, nausea, belching, flatulence, or uncomfortable fullness

Inflammation- redness, soreness and swelling associated with soft tissue damage (common ones are inflammation of the lungs, inflammation of the pleura, and inflammation of the tonsils).

Iritis- inflammation of the iris of the eye

Jaundice- yellowish discoloration of the tissues caused by accumulation of bile salts, associated with liver dysfunction.

Laryngitis- inflammation of the larynx

Lumbago- a painful condition of the lower back, resulting from muscle strain, a pinched nerve or a slipped disk.

Luxation- dislocation of an anatomical part (such as a bone at a joint)

Malaria- a serious disease that causes chills and fever and that is passed from one person to another by the bite of mosquitoes

Mania potu- a disordered mental state characterized by extreme excitement.

Maxillitis- inflammation of the maxilla

Measles- an infectious viral disease characterized by red spots on the skin, fever and coughing.

Meningitis- inflammation of the meninges and especially of the pia mater and the arachnoid, often marked by fever, headache, vomiting, malaise, and stiff neck, and if left untreated in bacterial forms, may progress to confusion, stupor, convulsions, coma, and death

Molluscum simplex- soft fibrous tumors (fibroma) of the skin, composed of fully developed connective tissue.

Morbi cutis- a skin disease

Mumps- an infectious viral disease, characterized by painful swelling in the salivary glands and sometimes the testes.

Neuralgia- painful inflammation of the nerves.

Odontalgia- toothache, usually caused by cavities or abscess.

Ophthalmia- inflammation or infection of the eye.

Orchitis-inflammation of the testis

Otorrhoea- an inflammation of the ear; ear infection.

Parotitis- inflammation and swelling of one or both parotid glands or other salivary glands, see mumps

Paralysis- complete or partial loss of function especially when involving the power of motion or of sensation in any part of the body

Piles- same as hemorrhoids

Pleuritis- inflammation of the pleura that is typically characterized by sudden onset, painful and difficult respiration, and exudation of fluid or fibrinous material into the pleural cavity, pleurisy.

Pneumonia- an acute disease that is marked by inflammation of lung tissue accompanied by infiltration of alveoli and often bronchioles with white blood cells (such as neutrophils) and fibrinous exudate, is characterized by fever, chills, cough, difficulty in breathing, fatigue, chest pain, and reduced lung expansion, and is typically caused by an infectious agent (such as a bacterium, virus, or fungus)

Poisoning- a substance that through its chemical action usually kills, injures, or impairs an organism

Rheumatism- painful inflammation of the joints.

Scald- a burn caused by hot liquid or steam

Scleritis- inflammation of the whites of the eyes

Sciatica- pain along the course of a sciatic nerve especially in the back of the thigh caused by compression, inflammation, or reflex mechanisms, can also cause pain in the lower back, buttocks, hips, or adjacent parts

Scrofula- a form of tuberculosis contracted by drinking contaminated milk and resulting in tubercles of the skin and other tissues.

Scurvy- vitamin C deficiency disease, common on long voyages and characterized by softening of the gums, hemorrhages under the skin and general debility.

Sprain- injury caused by the twisting of the ankle

Stricture of the Urethra- scarring that narrows the urethra and can lead to trouble urinating, inflammation or infection.

Subluxation- partial dislocation (as of one of the bones in a joint)

Syphilis: a contagious venereal disease

Tinea Capitis- an infection of the scalp caused by fungi of the genera Trichophyton and Microsporum and characterized by scaly patches penetrated by a few dry brittle hairs

Tonsillitis- an inflammation of the tonsils.

Tooth ache- pain of the teeth, usually caused by cavities

Tuberculosis- an infectious disease caused by a bacillus and characterized by the formation of tubercles in the lungs.

Tumores- (alternate spelling of Tumors) an abnormal benign or malignant new growth of tissue that possesses no physiological function and arises from uncontrolled usually rapid cellular proliferation OR a swollen or distended part

Typhoid- a communicable disease marked by fever, diarrhea, prostration, headache, splenomegaly, eruption of rose-colored spots, leukopenia, and intestinal inflammation and caused by a bacterium of the genus Salmonella (*S. typhi*) that spreads through contaminated food and water

Typhus- a bacterial disease spread especially by body lice and in which there is high fever, delirium, severe headache, and a dark red rash

Ulcer- a lesion on the skin or mucous membrane accompanied by pus and necrosis of the surrounding tissue.

Varicella- chicken pox

Varicocele- a cystic accumulation of blood in the spermatic cord.

Whitlow (felon)- a purulent infection of the hand, usually involving the pulp of the distal phalanx of the index finger; an injury common among cavalrymen and others who handled horses or other livestock

Wound- physical injury (vulnus)